

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07097 291934Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13
/095 W

-----007641 291938Z /50

P R 291523Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1830
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDELMC
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
DIRNSA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, MASS, US, GR, TU
SUBJECT: REACTION TO INITIALING OF U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION
AGREEMENT (DCA)

1. YESTERDAY'S (JULY 28) INITIALING OF THE U.S.-GREEK DCA
IS THE LEAD STORY IN THE ATHENS JULY 28 AND 29 NEWS MEDIA.
THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS WELL AS COMMENTARY BY "DIPLOMATIC
CIRCLES" HAS BEEN FEATURED PROMINENTLY ON NATIONAL RADIO AND
TELEVISION SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE, AND IN ALL ATHENS
NEWSPAPERS JULY 29. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN DETAILED, BUT,
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE COMMUNIST PRESS, NONCOMMITAL IN TONE
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 07097 291934Z

SO FAR. STATEMENTS BY LEFTIST OPPOSITION LEADERS CONDEMNING
THE INITIALING HAVE RECEIVED MIXED COVERAGE DEPENDING ON
THE POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF INDIVIDUAL PAPERS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA)
BULLETIN, "DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES CONNECTED WITH THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY OBSERVED THAT THE INITIALING OF THE NEW

DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREECE AND THE U.S. IS CONSIDERED TO BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF GREECE, SINCE IT REFORMS THE HITHERTO EXISTING STATUS OF U.S. MILITARY BASES IN GREECE, ENSURES GREECE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND INCREASES ITS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. INSTEAD OF CONTINUING THE STATUS OF THE U.S. BASES IN GREECE, FACILITIES ARE NOW BEING GRANTED TO THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IN CERTAIN GREEK MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WHICH WILL SERVE COMMON DEFENSE AIMS. THE AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN INITIALED BRINGS ABOUT A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF U.S. BASES IN GREECE THAT WAS IN FORCE UP TO NOW, IT WAS STRESSED YESTERDAY. SPECIFICALLY, THE BASES ARE ABOLISHED, AND INSTEAD U.S. ARMED FORCES WILL BE GRANTED FACILITIES IN FOUR GREEK MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, NAMELY SOUDA, IRAKLION, HELLENIKON AIRPORT AND NEW MAKRI. FURTHERMORE, MILITARY AID TOTALING 700 MILLION DOLLARS IS BEING GRANTED TO GREECE OVER FOUR YEARS. IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO ENSURE THIS FINANCIAL SIDE OF THE ARRANGMENT IN CASE THE U.S. CONGRESS SHOULD RATIFY THE RESPECTIVE U.S.- TURKISH AGREEMENT AND AID, IF PROGRESS WERE REALIZED ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION."

3. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION OR COMMENT ON THE INITIALING OF THE DCA BY THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER (UDC). THE LEADERS OF BOTH COMMUNIST PARTIES AND OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA) HAVE CRITICIZED THE AGREEMENT. THEY HAVE EXPRESSED ALARM CONCERNING THE TERMS OF THE DCA AND HAVE CALLED FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 07097 291934Z

A SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT TO DEBATE THEM. PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK) LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT OF HAVING SOLD OUT GREECE'S NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE FOR U.S. STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT LIES WHEN IT CLAIMS GREECE CONTROLS THE U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BECAUSE THE U.S. WOULD NEVER GIVE UP CONTROL OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS. PAPANDREOU ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID, "THIS IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GREEKS, BUT OF THE U.S. IN GREECE."

4. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TWO COMMUNIST DAILIES, COVERAGE BY THE ATHENS MORNING PRESS JULY 29 WAS DETAILED BUT GENERALLY NONCOMMITAL IN TONE. LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIMA HEADLINED, "AGREEMENT ON THE US BASES INITIALED, IT WILL BE SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER." TO VIMA, NOTING THAT THE US-GREEK AND US-TURKISH DCAS COULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONGRESS SEPARATELY, COMMENTED THAT "PRO-TURKISH ELEMENTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL INSIST THAT THE TWO DCAS BE KEPT IN BALANCE." TO VIMA, AND SEVERAL OTHER PAPERS, SAW THE "SUDDEN" AGREEMENT ON THE DCA AS AN EFFORT TO OVERCOME THE ILL WILL GENERATED BY THE RECENT CONTROVERSY CONCERNING AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE

SCHAUFLE. PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS HEADLINED "U.S. BASES UNDER GREEK CONTROL, WASHINGTON WILL GRANT US \$700 MILLION IN DEFENSE AID." INDEPENDENT BUT USUALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI HEADLINED "AGREEMENT ON OPERATIONS OF U.S. FACILITIES ON GREEK BASES INITIALED, ON CONDITION IT WILL BE APPROVED BY LEGISLATIVE BODIES." RIGHTIST ELEFTEROS COSMOS HEADLINED "AGREEMENT ON U.S. BASES INITIALED, MAY BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS BEFORE TURKISH DCA." ELEFTEROS COSMOS, AND SEVERAL OTHER PAPERS, ALSO REFERRED TO AN AN "AUTHORIZED SOURCE" AS "RECALLING" THAT THE USG NOW EXPECTS CERTAIN CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS FROM ANKARA..

5. COMMUNIST AVHGI HEADLINED "ATTICA AND CRETE BECOME PERMANENT U.S. LAUNCHING PADS THROUGH UNACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 ATHENS 07097 291934Z

INITIALED YESTERDAY," AND EDITORIALIZED THAT "THE INITIALING SHOWS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO REMAIN LINKED TO THE U.S. AND TO NATO, WHICH IS A DISASTER. SCHAUFLE'S STATEMENT WAS A DELIBERATE MOVE TO FRIGHTEN GREECE BECAUSE THAT IS THE TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP THE U.S. PREFERS." THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT SOVIET POLICY IN THE AREA IS DESIGNED TO AVOID DISPLEASEING TURKEY, BUT THERE IS NO HOPE OF CHANGING SOVIET POLICY AS LONG AS GREECE MAINTAINS ITS TIES WITH NATO AND THE U.S. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "THE GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO USE ITS MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT TO RATIFY THE DCA, BUT IT MUST REALIZE THE WHOLE NATION WILL BE AGAINST THE AGREEMENT." MOSCOW-ORIENTED RIZOSPASTIS HEADLINES "AGREEMENT ON BASES INITIALED BEHIND BACKS OF GREEK PEOPLE" AND EDITORIALIZED "THE AMERICANS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CONSOLIDATING, EXPANDING AND PERPETUATING THE STATUS OF THE BASES OF DEATH IN GREECE. COMMENTS BY 'DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES' THAT THE AGREEMENT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF GREECE, PLACE THE BASES UNDER GREEK CONTROL AND WILL GAIN US \$700 MILLION IN MILITARY AID ARE JUST DUST THROWN IN OUR EYES. THE AMERICANS WILL NOT ACCEPT CONTROLS. IN A WAR WITH TURKEY, THE U.S. BASES WILL BE USED AGAINST GREECE. AS FOR AID, TURKEY GETS MORE."

6. THE AFTERNOON PRESS JULY 29 CONTINUES THE SAME LEVEL OF COVERAGE AND IN THE SAME TONE WITH NO SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL COMMENT.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS07097
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770272-1234
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977077/aaaaaexz.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4bf676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1897529
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO INITIALING OF U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA)
TAGS: MARR, MASS, MORG, PGOV, US, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4bf676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009